

POLICY/TAXICAB FARES

MEMORANDUM

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REF ID: A6512

9 February 1951

TO : Mr. [REDACTED]

FROM : Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Use of Taxi Cabs

1. Your attention is invited to the change in para. 11 of Standardized Government Travel Regulations as amended October 1, 1950 which reads as follows:

"The hire of boat, automobile, ~~taxicab~~, aircraft, livery, or other special conveyance will be allowed if the use of such facilities is authorized or approved as advantageous to the Government whenever the employee is engaged on official business within or outside his designated post of duty."

2. Para 11 of Standardized Government Travel Regulations prior to 1 October 1950 read as follows:

"The hire of boat, automobile, air craft, livery, or other special conveyance will be allowed only when no public or regular means of transportation are available or when such regular means of transportation cannot be used advantageously in the interest of the Government, in which case a satisfactory explanation must accompany the account."

3. It is believed that the revised wording was intended to eliminate the long standing (and in my opinion) unjustifiable regulation which required use of streetcars, buses, and sub-ways. Both domestic and foreign travel orders could contain a statement to the effect that use of taxicabs is authorized as being more advantageous to the Government. The justification for such a statement could include, (a) expenditure, thereby causing a possible reduction in per diem by reason of the fact that official business would terminate sooner; (b) security factor by elimination of the necessity for asking directions of strangers concerning use of streetcars, buses, or sub-ways. Because of wording "advantageous to the Government" (not more economical to the Government) the security factor alone would be justification for [REDACTED] employees of CIA.

4. It is believed that with such wording in the Travel Orders the Travel Section of ID would be relieved of one of the more troublesome types of exceptions, which, under the present audit procedure, they are required to follow.